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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08650 251500Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 AIS-00 EA-05 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 OCS-06 CA-01 AS-01
USSS-00 AID-05 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICAE-00 PM-06 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SIL-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2834
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 1641
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS
C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8650
E.O. 12065 GDS 10-19-85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - OCTOBER 11-18
REF: BUENOS AIRES 8414
1. (C) CAMPORA CASE -----
TWO MEMBERS OF GENERAL VIOLA'S STAFF CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE JUNTA HAS TAKEN THE DECISION TO ALLOW FORMER PRESIDENT CAMPORA TO TRAVEL ABROAD, IF IT IS CONFIRMED THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM CANCER. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT UNTIL HE SUBMITS TO A BIOPSY, THE GOA WILL NOT ACT ON THAT DECISION. OUR SOURCES SAID THAT ONLY A BIOPSY CAN DEMONSTRATE WHETHER CAMPORA IS INDEED AS ILL AS IT IS CLAIMED. MEANWHILE, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOA TO ALLOW CAMPORA TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY-THE
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ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS THAT A MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY CONFIRMED THAT CAMPORA WILL BE TREATED FOR CANCER IN MEXICO CITY, IF THE GOA ALLOWS HIM TO TRAVEL. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HAS REQUESTED A TWO-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ISABEL PERON IN ONE OF THE SIX COURT CASES PENDING AGAINST HER. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A FORMAL REQUEST FOR A SENTENCE HAS BEEN MADE IN ANY OF THESE CASES.
2. (C) BASKET II CONTRADICTIONS -----
EMPHASIZING THE UNEVEN TEXTURE OF BASKET II HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ARGENTINE LABOR IS ENGAGED IN A SERIES OF STRIKES FOR HIGHER WAGES. THESE STRIKES, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ILLEGAL BUT SO FAR HAVE NOT BEEN INTERFERED WITH BY THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES, ARE ACCOMPANIED IN SOME
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIS/IPS
REVIEWED BY Rbale DATE 11/2/82
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JUDGMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THESE SUSPICIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH TO SEE OF OTHER INSTANCES IF REPRISALS OCCUR AND IF THE FORM A PATTERN.
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6. (LOU) A POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE -----
ACCORDING TO ONE SPANISH LANGUAGE BUENOS AIRES PAPER A WOMAN IN MENDOZA WAS SEIZED BY THREE UNIDENTIFIED MEN WHO SHOVED HER INTO A CAR AND DROVE OFF OCTOBER 14. THE REPORT STATES THAT BEFORE BEING DRIVEN OFF THE WOMAN, ESTER LILIANA BERBUDEZ DE HERRRERA WAS ABLE TO SHOUT TO WITNESSES FOR HELP. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER REPORTS OF THIS INCIDENT NOR HAS IT BEEN REGISTERED, THUS FAR, WITH ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.
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OF THE PLANTS WITH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND UNION SHOP STEWARDS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTINUES SUSPENDED BY OFFICIAL DECREE. ON THE OTHER HAND, OSCAR ALENDE, LEFTIST LEADER OF THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY WAS PREVENTED BY POLICE FROM HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 1. THE POLICE, THE PRESS REPOTED, STATED THEY WERE ACTING ON ORDERS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY. THE SILENCING OF ALENDE IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE OUTSPOKEN ACTIVITES OF PERONIST AND RADICAL PARTY LEADERS IN RECENT WEEKS, THOUGH PERONISTS WERE PROHIBITED FROM HOLDING PUBLIC GATHERINGS TO CELEGRATE OCOTBER 17, "PERONIST LOYALTY DAY."

3. (C) RAWSON PRISONER COMMITS SUICIDE -----

EDGARDO GUERRA, A PRISONER IN THE MAXIMUM SECURIYTY SECTION AT RAWSON PRISON REPORTEDLY HUNG HIMSELF OCOTBOER 13. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHO SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED A RELATIVE ALSO DETAINED AT RAWSON, GUERRA IS RUMORED AMONG THE PRISONERS

AS HAVING SUFFERED FROM SEVERE DEPRESSION. THE SOURCE OF THIS DEPRESSION, ACCORDING TO THESE RUMORS WAS GUERRA'S REMORSE OVER HAVING BETRAYED HIS "MONTONERO"COMPANIONS AND HIS LONELINESS SINCE HE HAD NO FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE ABLE TO VISIT HIM-HIS MOTHER IS SERIOUSLY ILL AND HIS WIFE IS IN PRISON ELSEWHERE.

4. (U) DIVINE LIGHT RAID -----

POLICE REPORTEDLY HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARRESTED FIVE MEMBERS OF THE DIVINE LIGHT MISSION (DLM) IN CORDOBA, CHARGING THEM WITH "REDUCING THEIR DISCIPLES TO SERVITUDE." THE FOLLOWERS OF GURU MAHARAJI HAD BEEN LIVING IN CORDOBA SINCE SEPTEMBER. THE DLM WAS DECREED ILLEGAL IN ARGENTINA IN 1977 BUT A LOCA COURT LAST MONTH IN LA PLATA SUSPENDED PROCEEDINGS IN A CASE AGAINST THE DLM AFTER ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE GROUP WERE PROVED FALSE.

5. (C) IAHRC AFTERMATH -----

AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WE ATTEMPTED TO MONITOR WHETHER AND TO WHAT DEGREE ARGENTINES WHO COOPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION WERE SUBJECT TO REPRISALS BY THE GOA. UNTIL THIS WEEK, WE HAD NO REPORTS OF ANY REPRISALS, INCLUDING AGAINST 80-90 FORMER PRISONERS WHO TESTIFIED TO THE COMMISSION. NOW HOWEVER, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSFER OF THREE CURRENT PRISONERS FROM NORMAL DETENTION TO MUCH MORE RIGOROUS DETENTION AMONG "INCORRIGIBLES" IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THESE THREE HAVING COOPERATED WITH THE IAHRC. THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITSTS, WHO SAY THEY KNOW OF NO OTHER SUCH "REPRISALS," BASE THEIR ASSUMPTION PRIMARILY ON THE FACT THAT THE THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WITNESSES WITH THE IAHRC AND THAT "NOTHING ELSE" CAN EXPLAIN THEIR TRANSFERS. WE ARE STILL WITHHOLDING